

# CLINICAL REGISTERED NURSES ATTITUDE TOWARD EUTHANASIA: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY FROM IRAN

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**Abstract:** Background and aims: Attitude towards euthanasia may influence the behavior of health care professionals about this issue. In present study we examined Iranian clinical registered nurses attitude toward euthanasia. Data were collected with using the Euthanasia Attitude Scale (EAS).

**Material and methods:** This descriptive study was conducted in two teaching hospitals, Boali Sian and Velayat, in Qazvin, Iran in 2016. Using convenience sampling, all qualified registered nurses (n=302) working in different wards at the two teaching hospitals were invited to participate in the study. EAS examined participant in four domains: ethical consideration, practical consideration, treasuring life and naturalistic beliefs. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS software (v17.0; PASW Statistics) and a variable was considered to be statistically significant if  $P < 0.05$ .

**Results:** Of the 302 nurses, 86.8% (n=262) were female and the rest were male. The mean age of nurses in present study was  $31.1 \pm 5.9$  years. The mean total score of nurses attitude were  $66.6 \pm 11.2$ . With regards to EAS domains, mean score of ethical consideration, practical consideration, treasuring life and naturalistic beliefs domains were  $35.1 \pm 7.5$ ,  $8.7 \pm 2.1$ ,  $15.3 \pm 2.5$  and  $6.3 \pm 1.9$  respectively.

**Conclusion:** Nurses have an important role in caring for terminally ill patients in different hospital wards. According to finding of present study most nurses have neutral attitude toward euthanasia. Further study in this regards recommended.

**Keywords:** ethical issue, nurses, euthanasia, developing country.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, regards advanced in medicine and health has led to significant progress in prolonging life and more people needs to end of life care [1]. According to World Health Organization, 71.4 years was the average life expectancy at birth of the global population in 2015 [2]. Euthanasia is one of the important challenges in the field of end of life care [3]. "Euthanasia" derived from Greek words eu (good) and thanatos (death) - means literally a "good death" [4]. It is also defined as "mercy killing" of the deadly diseases, injuries, or incapacities and the ending of the life as painless as possible, among the patients who are suffering from a fatal illness and extreme pain [5, 6]. Euthanasia is generally